

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 21.390

PERSONNEL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

§ 21.380 Establishment of qualifications for personnel providing assistance under Chapter 31.

(a) *General.* Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, VA shall establish qualification standards for VBA personnel providing evaluation, rehabilitation, and case management services to eligible veterans under chapter 31, including:

- (1) Counseling psychologists;
- (2) Vocational rehabilitation specialists; and
- (3) Other staff providing professional and technical assistance.

(b) *Rehabilitation Act of 1973.* VA shall consider qualification standards established for comparable personnel under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, when setting agency standards.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3118(c))

§ 21.382 Training and staff development for personnel providing assistance under Chapter 31.

(a) *General.* VA shall provide a program of ongoing professional training and development for staff of the VR&E Service engaged in providing rehabilitation services under chapter 31. The objective of such training shall be to insure that rehabilitation services for disabled veterans are provided in accordance with the most advanced knowledge, methods, and techniques available for the rehabilitation of disabled persons. The areas in which training and development services may be provided to enhance staff skills include:

- (1) Evaluation and assessment;
- (2) Medical aspects of disability;
- (3) Psychological aspects of disability;
- (4) Counseling theory and techniques;
- (5) Personal and vocational adjustment;
- (6) Occupational information;
- (7) Placement processes and job development;
- (8) Special considerations in rehabilitation of the seriously disabled;
- (9) Independent living services;
- (10) Resources for training and rehabilitation; and

(11) Utilizing research findings and professional publications.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3118)

(b) *Training and development resources.* For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section VA may:

- (1) Employ the services of consultants;
- (2) Make grants to and contract with public and private agencies, including institutions of higher learning, to conduct workshop and training activities;
- (3) Authorize individual training at institutions of higher learning and other appropriate facilities; and
- (4) Utilize chapter 41 of title 5, U.S.C., and related instructions to provide training and staff development activities on a group and individual basis.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3118(b))

(c) *Interagency coordination.* VA shall coordinate with the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment in planning and carrying out personnel training in areas of mutual programmatic concern.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3118(c))

REHABILITATION RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

§ 21.390 Rehabilitation research and special projects.

(a) *General.* VA shall carry out an ongoing program of activities for the purpose of advancing the knowledge, methods, techniques, and resources available for use in rehabilitation programs for veterans. For this purpose, VA may conduct research and development, provide support for research and development, or both conduct and provide support for the development and conduct of:

- (1) Studies and research concerning the psychological, educational, social, vocational, industrial, and economic aspects of rehabilitation; and
- (2) Projects which are designed to increase the resources and potential for accomplishing the rehabilitation of disabled veterans.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3119(a))